

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.     A method for reducing vehicle idle time, comprising the steps of:  
2                 detecting whether there is an occupant in the vehicle; and  
3                 disabling a timer that generates a signal to shut off an engine of the vehicle if  
4     an occupant is detected in the vehicle.

1           2.     The method of Claim 1, further including the steps of:  
2                 detecting that the vehicle is unoccupied; and  
3                 enabling the timer responsive to detection that the vehicle is unoccupied if the  
4     timer is disabled.

1           3.     The method of Claim 1, further including the steps of:  
2                 detecting an opening of a door of the vehicle; and  
3                 enabling the timer responsive to detection of opening of the door of the  
4     vehicle if the timer is disabled.

1           4.     A system for reducing idling time of a vehicle, comprising:  
2                    override circuitry for providing an indication of an occupant in the vehicle;  
3     and  
4                    a controller responsive to the indication from the override circuitry for  
5     disabling a timer module for generating a signal that stops an engine of the vehicle.

1           5.     The system of Claim 4, wherein the override circuitry further provides a  
2     second indicator that the vehicle is unoccupied.

1           6.     The system of Claim 5, wherein the controller further enables the timer  
2     module responsive to the second indicator if the timer module is disabled.

1           7.     The system of Claim 4, wherein the override circuitry further comprises at  
2     least one of an infrared device, an imaging sensor, a radar sensor, a fingerprint scanner, a  
3     retinal scanner, a weight sensor, a pressure switch, a video system, a palm print scanner, a  
4     laser system, a Pulse On system, a motion detector, or a switch.

1           8.     The system of Claim 4, further including:  
2                 circuitry for detecting an opening of a door of the vehicle; and  
3                 wherein said controller further enables said timer module responsive to  
4     detection of opening of the door of the vehicle if the time module is disabled.

1           9.     A vehicle comprising;  
2                     an engine; and  
3                     a system for controlling an idling time of said engine, said system further  
4 comprising:  
5                     a timer module for timing a predetermined time period responsive to at  
6                     least one input indicating the vehicle has stopped for activating and upon expiration  
7                     of the predetermined time period for generating a signal for stopping the engine of the  
8                     vehicle;  
9                     override circuitry for providing an indication of an occupant in the  
10                    vehicle; and  
11                    a controller responsive to the indication from the override circuitry for  
12                    disabling the timer module.

1           10.    The system of Claim 9, wherein the override circuitry further provides a  
2                   second indicator that the vehicle is unoccupied.

1           11.    The system of Claim 10, wherein the controller further enables the timer  
2                   module responsive to the second indicator if the timer module is disabled.

1           12.    The vehicle of Claim 9, wherein the override circuitry further comprises at  
2   least one of an infrared device, an imaging sensor, a radar sensor, a fingerprint scanner, a  
3   retinal scanner, a weight sensor, a pressure switch, a video system, a palm print scanner, a  
4   laser system, a Pulse On system, a motion detector, or a switch.

1           13.    The vehicle of Claim 10, further including:  
2                   circuitry for detecting an opening of a door of the vehicle; and  
3                   wherein said controller further enables said timer module responsive to  
4   detection of opening of the door of the vehicle if the timer module is disabled.

1           14.    A system for reducing idling time of a vehicle, comprising:  
2                   a timer module for timing a predetermined time period responsive to at least  
3   one input indicating the vehicle has stopped for activating the timer and upon expiration of  
4   the predetermined time period for generating a signal for stopping an engine of the vehicle;  
5                   override circuitry for providing an indication of an occupant in the vehicle;  
6   and  
7                   a controller responsive to the indication from the override circuitry for  
8   disabling the timer module.

1           15.    The system of Claim 14, wherein the override circuitry further comprises at  
2   least one of an infrared device, an imaging sensor, a radar sensor, a fingerprint scanner, a  
3   retinal scanner, a weight sensor, a pressure switch, a video system, a palm print scanner, a  
4   laser system, a Pulse On system, a motion detector, or a switch.

1           16.    The system of Claim 14, further including:  
2                    circuitry for detecting an opening of a door of the vehicle; and  
3                    wherein said controller further enables said timer module responsive to  
4   detection of opening of the door of the vehicle if the time module is disabled.

1           17.    The system of Claim 14, wherein the override circuitry further provides a  
2   second indicator that the vehicle is unoccupied.

1           18.    The system of Claim 17, wherein the controller further enables the timer  
2   module responsive to the second indicator if the timer module is disabled.